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VC I FOR HHEINTZELMAN AND KWALKIN; AF/E FOR BYODER

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PTER](#) [IAEA](#) [PGOV](#) [CG](#) [TZ](#)
SUBJECT: TANZANIA ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION UNAWARE OF
URANIUM SEIZURE OR IAEA REQUEST

REF: UNVIE VIENNA 00601

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE HANDLE ACCORDINGLY.

1. (SBU) In response to an August 6 London Sunday Times report of a shipment of uranium 238 uncovered by customs officials in Tanzania on October 22, Poloff spoke with A.M. Nyanda, Director General of the Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC). Nyanda said he had not read the article and had no knowledge of any seizure of uranium in Tanzania in October 2005, or of any contact from the International Atomic Energy Commission (IAEA) regarding such an incident.

2. (SBU) Nyanda confirmed that the TAEC is the regulatory body for all nuclear technology matters, including uranium, and that the TAEC registers all radioactive sources. When asked of the process in the event that uranium were to be found at an entry point, Nyanda said the authorities (customs, police or port officials) would seize the material and inform the TAEC. The TAEC would then confirm the measurements of the material and, if it was within its regulatory mandate, establish control measures until the case was resolved. The TAEC has one waste facility, located in Arusha, where it is headquartered. In addition to its main office in Arusha, the TAEC has a sub-office in Dar es Salaam and is planning to open another sub-office on Zanzibar. Nyanda estimated that any response required of TAEC would occur within one to two days of notification by authorities.

3. (SBU) When asked about reports to the IAEA, Nyanda said the TAEC "usually reports to the IAEA." When pressed regarding matters on which it would not so report, Nyanda said he could not envision any circumstances in which they would not report unless it was a military matter. Nyanda added that the TPDF would not be involved in a seizure of uranium unless the act was of a military nature.

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